

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE) Administrative Order
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL JUSTICE) No. 2015 - 126
REFORM AND APPOINTMENT)
OF MEMBERS)
_____)

Arizona’s Constitution directs that justice in all cases shall be administered “without unnecessary delay,” Art. 2, sec. 11, and Arizona’s Rules of Civil Procedure seek to promote “the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of every action.” Ariz. R. Civ. P. 1. Similarly, the Arizona Judicial Branch’s Strategic Agenda, *Advancing Justice Together: Courts and Communities*, identifies Goal 1 as “Promoting Access to Justice” and Goal 3 as “Improving Court Processes to Better Serve the Public.”

Consistent with these directives, the Judicial Branch is working to reduce the time and expense of civil litigation through various projects, including the adoption of case processing time standards, rule amendments related to case management, and improved court technology. Civil justice reform has also been the focus of several recent national initiatives, resolutions, or reports. These efforts include a Civil Justice Initiative by the Conference of Chief Justices (“CCJ”), the Rule 1 Initiative of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (“IAALS”), and amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Civil justice reform efforts seek to ensure that courts are forums for the fair and efficient resolution of disputes without undue expense or delay. Arizona’s Judiciary has a long history of reforming how it conducts its business, such as its adoption of mandatory disclosure requirements for civil cases. Ideas for further civil justice reforms should be informed by careful consideration of recent national efforts and studies.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Committee on Civil Justice Reform (Committee) is established as follows:

1. **Purpose.** The Committee shall develop recommendations, including rule amendments or pilot projects, to reduce the cost and time required to resolve civil cases in Arizona’s superior courts.

In developing recommendations, the Committee should:

- a. Review the report and recommendations of the CCJ’s Civil Justice Initiative;

- b. Review reports and recommendations prepared by IAALS related to civil justice reform, particularly its Rule 1 initiative and *Reforming Our Civil Justice System: A Report on Progress and Promise* (2015), prepared in partnership with the American College of Trial Lawyers; and
 - c. Review the December 2015 amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
2. **Membership.** The membership is attached as Appendix A. The Chief Justice may appoint additional members as may be necessary. Terms of Committee members shall expire on January 1, 2017.
 3. **Meetings.** The Committee shall meet at the discretion of the Committee Chair. All meetings shall comply with the public meeting policy of the Arizona Judicial Branch, Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-202.
 4. **Report and Recommendations.** The Committee shall submit its report, together with proposed rule changes, to the Arizona Judicial Council no later than October 1, 2016.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2015.

SCOTT BALES
Chief Justice

Appendix A
Committee on Civil Justice Reform

Chair

Don Bivens
Snell and Wilmer

Members

Hon. Robert M. Brutinel
Arizona Supreme Court

Dinita James
Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan LLP, Phoenix

Hon. Dawn Bergin
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Jack Jewett
Flinn Foundation, Phoenix

Hon. Jeffrey Bergin
Superior Court in Pima County

William G. Klain
Lang & Klain, P.C., Scottsdale

Colin Campbell
Osborn Maledon, Phoenix

Stephen Montoya
Montoya Jimenez, Phoenix

Krista Carman
Warnock MacKinlay & Carman, Prescott

Michael O'Connor
Salt River Project, Phoenix

Roopali Desai
Coppersmith Brockelman, Phoenix

Mark Rogers
ON Semiconductor, Phoenix

Jodi Feuerhelm
Perkins Coie, Phoenix

Hon. Peter Swann
Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One

Glenn Hamer
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and
Industry, Phoenix

Hon. Timothy Thomason
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Hon. Charles Harrington
Superior Court in Pima County

Geoffrey Trachtenberg
Levenbaum Trachtenberg, Phoenix

Tim Hogan
Arizona Center for Law in the Public
Interest, Phoenix

Hon. Patricia Trebesch
Superior Court in Yavapai County

Andrew Jacobs
Snell & Wilmer, Tucson

Steven Twist
Services Group of America, Scottsdale

David Weinzwieg
Office of the Attorney General